

## Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAB-01 EUR-12 SCCT-01 IO-10

CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SY-04 A-01 OPR-01

AID-05 NIC-01 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /103 W

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R 311152Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2654

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TUQMKW/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT 5311

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T BEIRUT 1474

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PMIL LE XF

SUBJECT: LEBANESE PREPARATIONS FOR ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING

REF: BEIRUT 707

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1. PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION BY SOME 15,000 PERSONS TOOK PLACE DOWNTOWN BEIRUT AFTERNOON JAN 30 IN SHOW OF "SOLIDARITY" WITH POPULATION OF SOUTH LEBANON (PARTICULARLY KFAR SHOUBA) AND IN PROTEST AGAINST GOL'S "FAILURE TO DEFEND THEM AGAINST ISRAELI ATTACKS. DEMONSTRATION, WHICH COINCIDED WITH SMALLER MANIFESTATIONS AND STRIKES IN MOST OTHER URBAN CENTERS, WAS CLEARLY ORGANIZED AND LED BY COMMUNISTS AND PRO-IRAQI BAATHISTS, WITH VARIOUS OTHER LEFTIST GROUPS (E.G., JUMBLATTISTS), LABOR ORGANIZATIONS AND EVEN SOME FOLLOWERS OF SHI'ITE IMAM MUSA SADR JOINING IN. SPEECHES AND PLACARDS GENERALLY EXCORIATED GOL FOR ITS NEGLECT OF SOUTH'S ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND MILITARY NEEDS, ITS "ISOLATIONIST" STAND TOWARD ARAB CONFLICT WITH ISRAEL, AND ITS "DEFEATIST" COOPERATION WITH "AMERICAN-ZIONIST PLOTS".

2. IN MEANTIME, GOL'S PUBLIC PREPARATIONS FOR FEB 5 ARAB DEFENSE COUNCIL (ADC) MEETING IN CAIRO WERE IN PROGRESS. PAST WEEK WITNESSED SERIES OF WELL-PUBLICIZED "CONSULTATIONS" BY LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTER TAQLA WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS IN BEIRUT, AND ON JAN 30 TAQLA TRAVELED TO DAMASCUS TO CONFER ABOUT ADC AND OTHER MATTERS WITH SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM (FBIS BE301555). PRIME MINISTER SOLH HAD ANOTHER MEETING SAME DAY WITH 'ARAFAT TO DISCUSS ADC (FBIS BE301546), AND LEBANESE AMBASSADOR SABRA IN CAIRO HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH EGYPTIANS. THE VARIOUS OFFICIAL GOL STATEMENTS ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THESE ACTIVITIES HAVE INVARIABLY EMPHASIZED "HARMONY", "COORDINATION", "MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING" AND SO ON.

3. ON PRIVATE LEVEL, HOWEVER, WE GATHER GOL CONTINUES TO REGARD ITS RECOURSE TO ADC AS IMAGERY AND PUBLIC RELATIONS GIMMICK PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF "ACTIVITY" THAT WOULD COUNTER DOMESTIC AGITATION BY LEFTISTS AND OTHER OPPOSITION ELEMENTS AND AT SAME TIME REDUCE EXTERNAL ARAB PRESSURES ON GOL TO ASSUME GREATER ROLE IN CONFRONTATION WITH ISRAEL. DESPITE ALL SORTS OF SPECULATION IN BEIRUT PRESS RE PROPOSALS WHICH GOL DEL IS LIKELY TO PUT FORWARD IN CAIRO,

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PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER BOUTROS DIB TOLD DCM ON JAN 25 THAT GOL PLANS ONLY TO SUBMIT PRO FORMA (AND ESSENTIALLY VAGUE) CASE TO ADC RE NEED FOR ARAB ARMS AID TO DEFEND LEBANON AGAINST ISRAEL RAIDS. DIB SAID QUESTION OF ASKING FOR ARAB HELP IN CONTROLLING FEDAYEEN ACTIVITY IN LEBANON WILL NOT BE RAISED BY GOL DEL IN OPEN SESSION, ALTHOUGH HE EXPECTED IT WOULD BE DISCUSSED IN PRIVATE CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN

LEBANESE AND CERTAIN OTHER ARAB DELS. IN SUM,  
WOULD APPEAR THAT GOL IS AIMING FOR REPEAT PERFORMANCE  
OF LAST SUMMER'S ANODYNE ADC PERFORMANCE, WHICH  
PRODUCED NO SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF ANY KIND.

4. PLO LEADERSHIP, FOR ITS PART, SEEMS DISTURBED BY  
'ARAFAT'S INABILITY TO OBTAIN FROM PRIMIN SOLH ANY  
CLEAR INDICATION OF WHAT POSITION GOL INTENDS TO ADOPT  
IN CAIRO MEETINGS. THEY THUS TEND TO SUSPECT GOL OF HAVING  
IN MIND SOME NEFARIOUS SCHEME DIRECTED AGAINST THEM,  
NOT REALIZING OF COURSE THAT GOL REALLY IS GOING TO  
ADC IN CAIRO WITH NO RPT NO REAL POSITION AT ALL--  
SAVE THAT OF AVOIDING CONCLUSIVE RESULTS AND PLAYING  
EVERYTHING BY EAR.  
GODLEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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